

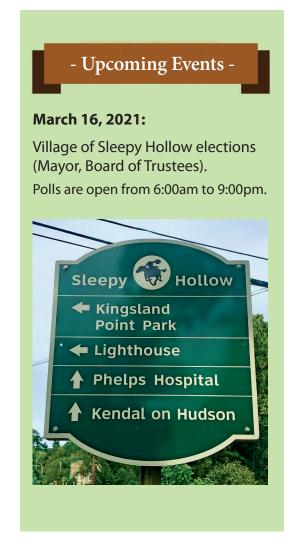
AN OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VILLAGE OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

-Winter 2021-

Note from Mayor Ken Wray:

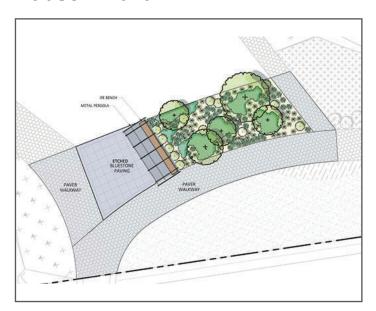
We're all hopeful that 2021 brings renewed opportunities to gather with friends and family, to attend community events, and to enjoy local businesses and see them prosper. While we remain vigilant as the pandemic continues to impact our lives, the continued roll-out of vaccines in NY State and around the country offers reason for optimism. Here in the Village of Sleepy Hollow, we're pushing forward with a range of projects and public/private partnerships that will improve the quality of life for our residents.

This newsletter highlights initiatives to improve public access to the waterfront and to area parks and paths, to add affordable housing, to improve the effectiveness of the Department of Public Works, and more. It also highlights the success of a remarkable community project, the "Wishing Wall" Community RiverWalk Mural, and salutes local resident Armando, "Chick" Galella, who turned 100 years young on New Year's Day 2021 and continues to inspire all of us.



Projects in Progress

Hudson Plaza



A grant from the New NY Bridge Waterfront
Revitalization Program has enabled the Village to
create a new entrance to the RiverWalk currently
under construction at the southern boundary of
Edge-on-Hudson. **Hudson Plaza**, as this section of
park is currently known, will link to the Village Green
at the base of Beekman Avenue, affording direct
access to the RiverWalk. The thoughtful design
includes a steel shade pergola and wooden bench,
with materials selected to reflect the harmony
between natural and built environments. The plaza
includes bluestone paving blocks custom designed
and etched with a representation of the Hudson
River and its tributaries. Native landscaping will

include River Birch trees, flowering perennials such as Wild Bergamot and Great Blue Lobelia paired with visual softness offered by Pennsylvania Sedge and Northern Prairie Dropseed grasses. Hudson Plaza will be completed in Spring 2021. The project design team included Yost Design Landscape Architecture.

Edge-on-Hudson



The Village of Sleepy Hollow is set to receive a number of benefits from work underway at Edge-on-Hudson in 2021. Phase One of the new **Sleepy Hollow RiverWalk**, designed in conjunction with the Village's Public Space Council, received Planning Board approval late last year and is now under construction. This section of the park will run from the southern end of the development (by Ichabod's Landing at Beekman Avenue and River Street) north to the lighthouse and will become a public park on completion. The temporary

path along the waterfront is expected to remain open as much as possible during construction. Phase Two of the park, from the lighthouse to Kingsland Point Park, will be constructed at a future date. Elsewhere in Edgeon-Hudson, 60 units of affordable housing apartments are expected to be completed in 2021 and construction is expected to begin on a new DeCicco & Sons market which is slated to open in 2022. The interior garage now under construction at the site will also be enclosed by the Hines apartments that it is designed to serve.

Sleepy Hollow Common

2021 promises to see major steps forward for the development of the **Sleepy Hollow Common**, the former General Motors parking lot east of the railroad tracks bordered by Beekman Avenue to the south and the Pocantico River to the north. The Sleepy Hollow Local Development Corporation (SHLDC) is redeveloping the nearly 30-acre site at the behest of the Village to create public amenities such as walking trails and playing fields, as well as providing for a much-needed new site for the Department of Public Works. With Phase 1 (infrastructure) largely completed in 2020, financing for Phase 2 has been secured and the Village will retain an architectural firm in 2021 to create a design for the actual DPW complex. Concept plans for additional uses on site including a new Sleepy Hollow Ambulance Corps facility may also be developed. In addition, the old GM viaduct linking Sleepy Hollow Common to Beekman Avenue will be removed and a new road is planned that will provide a much needed second access point to the Common from Beekman Avenue.

Comprehensive Plan



The Village is at a pivotal moment in our history, with substantial changes underway that impact our economic health and physical development. The village has an enhanced capacity to attract new businesses and new residents, and the opportunity to improve the quality of life for existing residents. Mindful of the need to be sure that changes underway align with the values of the community, the Village of Sleepy Hollow updated both its Comprehensive Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (Waterfront Plan) in 2019 following a

series of public meetings with local residents, business owners and other stakeholders. The adopted plans layout a roadmap designed to guide positive results for both current and future residents, merchants, and stakeholders of all income levels and ethnicities and seeks to ensure that, through careful, consensus-driven planning, Sleepy Hollow can transform itself in a way that delivers clear benefits to the full community, while preserving the Village's values and special character. In 2021, the Village is taking a number of steps to implement aspects of the Comprehensive Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, with a focus on downtown revitalization (made even more urgent following the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic) and on access to waterfront open space along both the Hudson River and the Pocantico River. Plans for downtown revitalization include updates to zoning regulations, along with streetscape and traffic flow improvements, while plans for open space access include the development of new parks and trails and improvements to existing parks.

•••• Staff Spotlight - Angela Martello ••••



The impact of the pandemic has placed a spotlight on the role of first responders – including police officers, volunteer firefighters, and the EMT's of our volunteer ambulance corps. There's one local resident, born and raised in Sleepy Hollow, who knows all three roles intimately. Many people know **Angela Martello** as a friendly face of the Sleepy Hollow Police Department. In her spare time (?!) Angela is currently Chief of the Sleepy Hollow Volunteer Ambulance Corps, as well as an EMT, and also serves as a volunteer firefighter for the SHFD.

Angela followed in her father's footsteps when she volunteered for

training with the SHFD at just 14 years old. By age 18, Angela was certified as an interior firefighter as well as an EMT. Angela went on to graduate from the University of New Haven with a degree in Criminal Justice and later joined the Sleepy Hollow Police Department in 2015.

Asked what she enjoys most about Sleepy Hollow, the Pocantico Street resident answered immediately that it's the "sense of community" in the village. This community spirit has been very evident during the pandemic, she added, pointing out the Sleepy Hollow PBA's annual toy drive in December received more than double the previous year's donations, as just one example. "It's a time to stay positive and see the good in people. With all that's going on, I think people are more understanding."

Angela encourages local residents to get involved in serving the community – and particularly in her role as Chief of the Ambulance Corps, highlights the need for additional EMT's. Free EMT classes and continuing training are available at Phelps Hospital Northwell Health which has a close relationship with the Corps. In fact, the medical director of the ambulance corps is a Phelps physician. Information on becoming a volunteer EMT is available by calling (914) 631 -1962.

Business Spotlight

New! Croqueteria

A new restaurant and take-out venue opened in Sleepy Hollow in September of 2020 and it's well worth a visit! **Croqueteria**, billed as "Home of the Real Cuban Sandwich" and artisanal croquettes, is a family-run affair that's a welcome addition to the Village. Located at 166 Cortlandt Street, Croqueteria is led by Chef/Owners Carlos Zequeria and Niorka Guirola Zequeria (left and center in photo) as well as partner Pablo Zequeria (at right). Despite opening during the pandemic, the owners have been thrilled with the strong response from local residents and feel they have found the ideal village in Sleepy Hollow, after a long search for a location in their move from New York City. More at: https://croqueteriallc.wixsite.com/croqueteria



Community RiverWalk Mural



While the pandemic forced the cancellation of a range of events in 2020, it's clear that in a village with strong community spirit and artistic inspiration – anything is possible. With the 2020 Sleepy Hollow Cultural Festival postponed, organizers including Kersten Harries and Diana Loja, among others, sought to create a temporary outdoor arts project that could bring the community together (in a safe manner). The idea for the "Wishing Wall" Community RiverWalk Mural was born. Mural organizers reached out to the community for subject ideas, asking, "What are your hopes and dreams for the future, for yourself, your loved ones and your community?" The Village offered financial support, Edge-on-Hudson offered equipment and its riverfront wall as a canvas, and local residents donated paint, time and inspiration. A group of artists was selected to incorporate ideas from the community, organizing imagery into four elements of air, earth, water and humanity to create a continuous composition that stretches the entire 520-foot length of the wall. Eventually, nearly 300 people collaborated to make the Community RiverWalk Mural a reality, coming together in an accelerated two-month timeline designed to complete the wall before winter weather set in. In addition to artists creating design elements, more than 150 volunteer painters (ranging in age from 2 to 80) primed and painted all 65 concrete panels of the wall, working in staggered shifts seven days a week. The result is a stunning artistic collaboration that has delighted residents and visitors exploring the RiverWalk. While the mural has been designed as a temporary art installation, it remains currently on view and will be memorialized with a video documenting its creation. Members of the community who may have photos or video of themselves or their family enjoying viewing the wall or even working on the wall are encouraged to send the photos or videos for possible inclusion in the documentary to riverwalkcommunitymural@gmail.com. Stay up to date on the project on Facebook or Instagram @riverwalkcommunitymural. And late breaking news: Arts Westchester is awarding the Village its 2021 Community Award for the Wishing Wall! Congratulations to all of the artists and volunteers.

Happy 100th Birthday to Chick Galella!

Lifelong North Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow resident **Armando "Chick" Galella** celebrated his 100th birthday on January 1, 2021! Chick's dedication to his country, his family, and his local community has been an inspiration to local residents for many years. Armando Galella was born in 1921 and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1940. After training, he was assigned to the 443rd Signal Corps at Hickam Air Force Base and is a survivor of the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Galella went on to serve five years in the Pacific Theater, earning the highest rank an enlisted man can achieve, Battalion Sergeant Major. He received



the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service and bravery in the Battle of Okinawa. Known affectionately as "Chick" (he tells friends he had skinny "chicken legs" as a kid!), Galella has served his local community as well as his country. Chick has served as a Village Trustee and as Deputy Mayor, as a member of Pocantico Hook and Ladder Company, and as Fire Commissioner. Chick was married for 65 years (his wife Leda passed away in 2015) and has two sons, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. On January 2, 2021, Chick was honored by officials from the Village, New York State and Westchester County, along with local residents with a (socially distanced) motorcade, a groundbreaking at Horan's Landing for a statue to Gold Star Mothers, and finally, a fireworks display shot off from Edge-on-Hudson. Happy Birthday Chick, and thank you for your service, you are an inspiration! *Photo of Chick Galella by Margaret Fox*.

**** Dates to Remember ****

March 16, 2021: Village of Sleepy Hollow elections (Mayor, Board of Trustees).

Polls are open from 6:00am to 9:00pm. If you are unsure of your polling location, contact the Village Clerk's office at 366-5106